



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
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Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: TN114

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Tennessee Counties: Sullivan, Hawkins, Hancock, Washington, Greene, Hamblin,

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Jefferson, Cocke

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Hawkins and Greene Counties

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☒ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

These counties are in the northeastern portion of Tennessee and are part of a large rural area that contains more than 3,040 square miles and 307,265 farm animals, including beef and dairy cattle, swine, and small ruminant operations. In addition, there are numerous poultry complexes in six of the counties. This area contains 100 dairies. 74 dairies are in Washington and Greene Counties alone. Twenty veterinarians currently serve seven of the counties. There are no veterinarians serving Cocke County. Direct agriculture economic activity in this area accounts for \$181.5 million dollars with 41 % derived from cattle (beef and dairy combined) production and provide 8,104 full and part-time jobs. (Poultry numbers will increase these numbers significantly.) A veterinarian in this area would promote successful livestock production, insuring the success of these jobs and promoting economic security of the region. In addition, the veterinarian will provide necessary regulation for animal health and safeguard the nation's food supply. Although Hawkins and Greene Counties provide a centralized location, it would be more feasible for there to be multiple veterinarians in this area.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Activities of a food animal veterinarian in Area 4 would include: surveillance for emerging animal diseases, diagnosis and treatment of diseased animals as well as implementing preventative measures for herd health, recommendations of management practices to improve the reproductive health of the herd, and identification of nutritional deficiencies and parasitic problems. This veterinarian would also be expected to provide brucellosis and tuberculosis testing, to write certificates of veterinary inspections, to involve farmers in traceability programs, to provide surveillance for animal disease while working sale barns and comingling facilities, and to share information with the community about animal health programs and regulations. A young veterinarian having received a VMLRP award could promote the profession and the VMLRP to students in 4H and FFA, thereby increasing interest in agricultural pursuits.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Sullivan, Hawkins, Hancock, Washington, Greene, Hamblin, Jefferson, Cocke Counties have had little success in attracting food animal veterinarians due to the economical disadvantages of such areas. It is difficult for food animal veterinarians to maintain a practice and live in a low income area while attempting to pay back student loans.

According to a 2007 report that evaluated the veterinary needs of Tennessee, 19% of livestock producers expressed difficulties in obtaining beef and dairy cattle veterinary services. The report also documented equine owner and dairy producer financial losses due to the lack of Tennessee veterinary specialization within these two sectors.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Areas that lack veterinary supervision are areas that can be the first to break with contagious disease that can rapidly affect the state and national food supply. Veterinarians are important to have throughout the state because they are our first line of defense against foreign animal disease and bioterrorism. Now, more than ever, with all the interstate and international travel, pathogens and fomites can easily be passed and diseases can be spread. Intentionally or unintentionally, the result will be the same: the food supply will be compromised and contaminated. The majority of weaned beef calves in Tennessee are comingled and sold in sale barns. From here, these animals are transported to feed yards in Iowa, Texas, and Oklahoma. An exposed calf from a Tennessee sale barn could spread an FAD half way across the United States and expose a vast number of feeders within a short time frame. A trained FAD veterinarian could prevent such an event.

Tennessee anticipates a need of 45 veterinarians involved in mixed animal or farm animal practice, public health, and regulatory medicine over the next five years due to pending retirements and projected veterinary service requirements. This projection and the current deficiency of veterinarians in these counties is a concern for the Tennessee livestock and animal protein production sectors. Livestock production is a vital part of the State's economy. Resources must be applied to attract food animal, public health, and regulatory veterinarians to Tennessee's rural counties to keep livestock production a safe and robust industry.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Charles Hatcher

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Organization: Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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